

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, October 14, 1993

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Southern, Indian Baptists begin earthquake relief

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern and Indian Baptists have linked efforts to deliver relief assistance to victims of India's Sept. 30 earthquake, which may have killed more than 20,000 people.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has earmarked \$100,000 in relief funds for the effort, to be combined with funds from Indian Baptists.

Southern Baptist representatives with expertise in relief work and Indian culture plan to join

Indian Baptists from the city of Hyderabad to survey the devastated areas. They'll look for sites where they can supply long-term assistance and determine the exact amount of money needed.

"There's tremendous international interest in the situation right now, but that's likely to fade within a few weeks," explained Clyde Meador, FMB area director for southern Asia and the Pacific. "That's when we feel we can come in with a plan to offer significant help to the people."

The earthquake centered around the town of Khillari, about 250 miles southeast of Bombay and 130 miles northwest of Hyderabad. A series of quakes in the Indian state of Maharashtra toppled mud and brick homes, burying thousands of people and leaving more than 150,000 homeless.

Baptist aid most likely will focus on housing, not hunger relief, Meador said. If the survey team does decide to supply housing, Baptists will use local tech-

nology in the rebuilding effort. Initial planning calls for housing aid to go primarily to people who can't afford to rebuild on their own.

"Southern Baptist specialists will help Indian Baptists look at what's possible from a technological point of view as well as from a Christian witness point of view," said a survey team member. "We'll explain some of the things we've done in other places where we have offered

this type of help."

The Foreign Mission Board already has helped send medical supplies to India. It sent about \$14,000 to the Medical Assistance Program (MAP) in Brunswick, Ga., to cover handling costs of medical supplies that arrived in India Oct. 7. The MAP shipment, worth \$458,000, is on its way to the Immanuel Hospital Association, a group of hospitals working in the earthquake area.

Gift means world of encouragement

By Craig Bird

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — A dollar won't buy much these days.

But the single dollar bill seven-year-old Caroline Nelson of Austin, Texas, recently mailed to the Foreign Mission Board bought a little bit of food for a starving Somali child.

It also purchased a huge supply of encouragement for Southern Baptist aid workers in that tense and troubled country.

Caroline tucked the bill inside a note written in magic marker asking that her gift be used "to help the poor people of the world." It was applied to the mission board's MANNA project and assigned to the feeding program in Somalia.

When word of the contribution reached the small group of Southern Baptists working in Somalia, the dollar produced million-dollar smiles.

"We go months without hearing the words 'please' or 'thank you,'" one said. "And we're always aware we could be the next target of attacks on Americans. It

gets hard some days to remember why we're here."

But Caroline knows, and they appreciate her reminding them.

Contacted by telephone at her home in Austin, the second-grader had a simple explanation for why

she sent the dollar: "Because I wanted to."

Questioned further, she told about learning of the many hungry people in the world during Vacation Bible School at Hyde Park Church in Austin, where she attends with her parents. She also studies missions weekly in the church's Girls in Action program.

"She did this whole deal on her own," reported her father, Austin attorney Jim Nelson. "She brought me change one day and wanted a dollar bill. I asked what for and she said, 'I've gotta mail it to somebody.' I said, 'Who are you mailing money to?'" Caroline displayed her note, all ready to go.

Caroline's allowance is 75 cents a week, according to her Dad. He must not have heard about her last raise from Mom. "Now I get \$1.50," Caroline informed Baptist Press.

Either way, the dollar cost her something. A lot of Christians could learn from Caroline.

Bird writes for FMB.



Nelson

BWAid study will determine needs

Baptist World Aid is working with Indian Baptists to assess and ascertain their needs in providing help to the victims of the Sept. 30 earthquake that left tens of thousands dead.

BWAid, a ministry of the Baptist World Alliance, is awaiting detailed information from Baptist groups in the disaster area. Indian Baptists will care for those in need in their communities, with BWAid supporting them in their ministry. The effort will involve medical and food relief, and rehabilitation work.

Individuals interested in participating in BWAid's project may send donations to Baptist World Aid-India Earthquake Relief, 6722 Curran St., McLean, VA 22101-6005.

Church anniversaries mark 575 years total

Four Mississippi Baptist churches celebrated anniversaries Oct. 3, totaling 575 years of service to separate communities across the state. Each of the congregations was recognized by the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission for its accomplishment.

Crystal Springs Church in Walthall Association celebrated its 100th anniversary. Jeffrey Burris is pastor.

First Church, Canton, and First Church, New Albany, celebrated their 150th anniversaries. Bill Hurt is pastor at Canton, and Tom Sumrall is pastor at New Albany.

Providence Church in Lebanon Association celebrated its 175th anniversary. Clifford Lazenby serves as pastor.

The Historical Commission may be contacted by writing P.O. Box 51, Clinton, MS 39060; phone, (601) 925-3434.

Halloween alternative slated



The Hidden Cry, a live Christian drama, will be offered in Lucedale on Halloween night, Oct. 31, as an alternative to "traditional" Halloween activities. The event will begin at 8:15 p.m. in the activities building of George County High School, located on Church Street in Lucedale. A cast of 30 people will participate in the multi-media presentation, which is designed to help Christians evaluate their roles in the Great Commission and encourage them to put their talents into evangelism. An altar call will be given at the conclusion of the program. In an effort to reach all people in the community, Christian churches of other faiths are joining with George Association to produce the program and participate in the mission project. *The Hidden Cry* is open to everyone who would like to attend. For more information, contact First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 117, Lucedale, MS 39452. Telephone: (601) 947-3441.

Hopewell celebrates 180th

Hopewell Church, Franklin Association, will observe its 180th anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 24. The church, founded four years before Mississippi became the 20th state, is located on Old Hwy. 84 in Bude. Services will begin

with Sunday School at 10 a.m., followed with the morning message by Frank Haire, a former pastor of the church now serving as interim pastor.

Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall following the worship hour, and a time of worship in song will be conducted after lunch. All friends and former members of the church are invited to attend.



Looking back...

50 years ago

Members of Clear Branch Church in Rankin County surprised pastor W.S. Landrum at the conclusion of revival services with a bale of cotton as a love offering. Other churches were encouraged to consider similar offerings.

20 years ago

Charlie Thompson Day was observed at Mt. Zion Church, Simpson County. He was licensed to preach there in 1923. He was pastor in Ellisville, Aberdeen, Laurel, and Liberty.

10 years ago

The largest-ever gathering of Baptists in Mississippi — about 12,000 people — is expected for the Foreign Mission Board's just-announced appointment service in April 1984 at the Gulf Coast Coliseum in Biloxi.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Historical Commission, SBC

Nashville, Tennessee

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

States' rights and the SBC

The state convention nears and this is a good time to be reminded of what Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, said last year in his message to the convention.

Responding to a "where do we go from here" question, Causey said: "I think we should draw the line where, in our hearts, we may be certain we keep ourselves aligned with what we in Mississippi determine together is God's highest purpose for us, and then draw the line at the state line."

There is an abundance of advice flowing into the Magnolia state, much of it unsolicited, telling us how to act, vote, or where to send our funds. Mississippi has avoided much of the SBC-style politics and sought to remain in the center of the stream. We have some churches supporting the CBF and we have some ultra-fundamentalist/conservative churches. Most are just plain conservative churches.

However, practically all the churches continue to support the Cooperative Program — probably the highest percentage in the SBC.

The tendency is to draw a line at the state line and invite the political element to stay clear. Alas, it is not to be.

The president of the SBC Executive Committee and pastor in Mobile, Fred Wolfe, called a prominent Mississippi pastor encouraging him to nominate another prominent Mississippi pastor to be president of the state convention. Wolfe said he had been requested by another Mississippian to make the call.

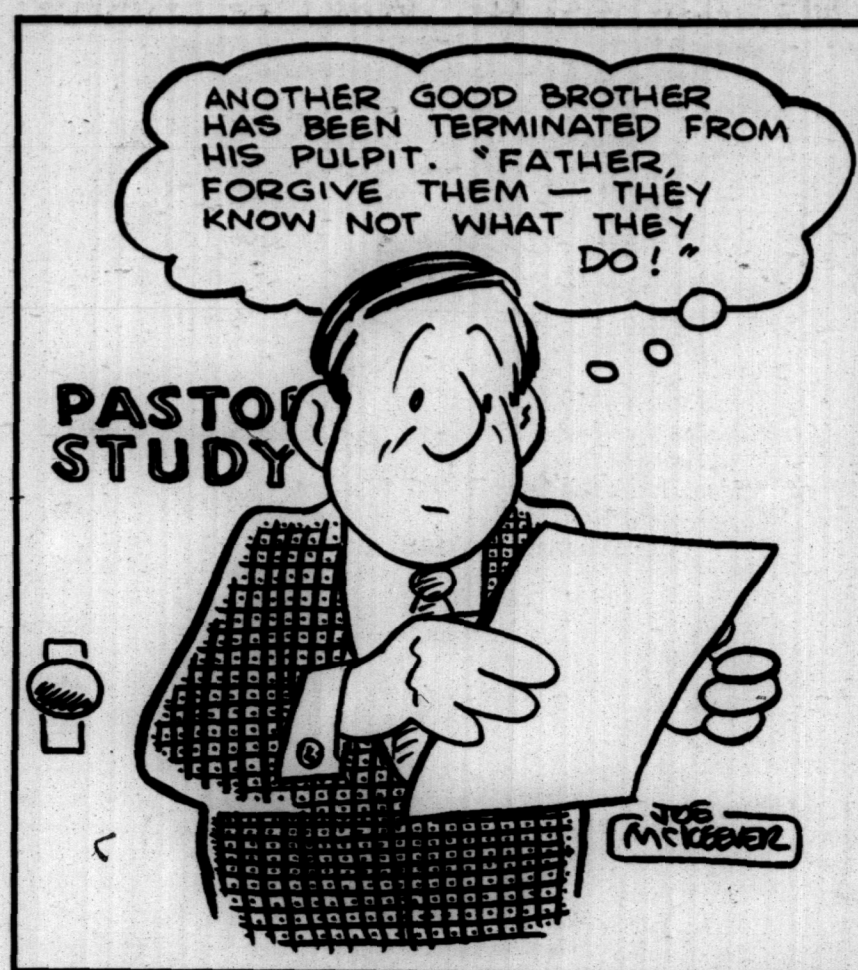
Now, Fred is a busy, multi-talented pastor and is a popular speaker in the SBC. For a decade he has called pastor search committees in Mississippi with recommendations. These pastors were usually in the fundamental/conservative camp. Wolfe maintains he only does this when requested and there is no political nor ulterior motive.

Now, there is nothing wrong with recommendations and this is still a free country. However, it grows stale after years of it. Other big name pastors have joined Fred until Mississippi search committees are recipients of many such

recommendations. It is as if the Holy Spirit's leadership must come through Mobile, Memphis, or Nashville. Many of these recommended pastors turned out well and are doing a creditable job. Perhaps due to slumping Cooperative Program gifts, the SBC leadership feel they must exert strong guidance. However, seeking to influence the election of state convention officers is not part of the SBC job description and smacks of SBC tactics being pressed down on state conventions.

Perhaps this is not a blatant attempt to control the Mississippi Convention from the outside, but just an innocent telephone call to a friend. If so, I'll be quick to apologize. Fred Wolfe is a friend to many pastors in our state and is well received when speaking in this area.

The earnest concern and prayers of our brethren are appreciated. When the people of Mississippi are given the facts they can usually make their decisions. Autonomy, freedom, and integrity mean a lot to all of us. Each is worth protecting.



THE FRAGMENTS

"I'll continue to trust him"

The pastor paused to look over the group. He had asked for and received a moment to speak to the pastor's conference. "As you may know, I resigned my church last evening." In earnest tone he recounted his love for his church and his labor there for almost five years.

The tears were not far away. Frequent "amens" and "God bless you" from the others punctuated his words. He had no other church. He was moving back to his home community. He was not asking for pity nor help. "I've trusted God these many years, I'll continue to trust him." He spoke of the good people in his church — people with whom he had prayed, cried,

married their young, and buried their dead. Their lives had been almost inextricably woven together and trying to separate all the fibers was tearing his heart out. As Diotrophes of old (3 John 9) there were several "who loveth to have the preeminence" there and he felt any effective work could not be done.

So another pastor had been terminated. His wife and especially his children found it difficult to accept. Now without income, insurance, or the emotional stability of a church family, his statement hung in the air, "I'll continue to trust him." He may have bitten the dust, but that day he stood mighty tall in my eyes. — GH

program is only one part of the college's extensive extracurricular program. We must provide a broad ranging college experience that goes outside the classroom to provide students with an understanding of such key concepts as the rewards of teamwork, discipline, and individual effort. The total athletic budget for scholarships and other expenses is only about 4% of the college budget. Just as some students learn from participation with our Christian radio station, and others benefit from performing and choral groups, athletics are key to the development of certain students who are determined to participate in highly competitive sports. Those students should have access to Christian higher education.

3. The editorial asked whether alcohol was provided for ABA inspectors at some law school functions in 1978. The board of trustees investigated that issue in 1982, found that no college official was involved in buying or providing alcohol and no school funds were used. We are puzzled about why this issue is again being raised 10 years after it was fully reviewed and addressed.

4. The editorial questioned both efforts to get the state to provide tuition grants and the participation in federal grant programs. Yes, through the Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges, we have asked the state to provide tuition grants to students. We are (See MC on page 8)

Guest opinion...

MC responds — future looks bright

In the Oct. 7 Baptist Record, a former Mississippi College School of Law faculty member, who left the college more than a decade ago, editorialized about what he feels are five problems at Mississippi College. Each of those concerns deserves a response.

However, before responding to the concerns expressed, it is important to note a few examples of the continuing achievements of MC's students and faculty. The tone of the opinions expressed in that editorial could leave Baptists unfamiliar with the college thinking it is not fulfilling its mission to provide outstanding Christian higher education. Nothing could be further from the truth.

- Enrollment is up again this year, by 3.4%, with Baptist enrollment up from 76% to 79%.

- Approximately 50 MC graduates currently serve as foreign missionaries.

- For the fifth consecutive year a national study has named MC one of the "top 100 character building schools in the nation" — one of only about 50 to make the list every year.

- Six presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention, including the current and previous presidents, have been MC graduates.

- Three presidents of the SBC

Baptist Sunday School Board (serving for 75 years) have been MC graduates.

- The college has an 84% rate of admissions of MC graduates to medical schools across the country — while the national average is only about 50%.

Our students continue to excel. To suggest that the present or future of the college are not bright is simply not true.

The editorial questioned: "What will the future hold for Mississippi College?" Both the present and the future look excellent, and the issues raised by the editorial, many of which are 15 years old, have little to do with the current situation at MC. Our academic program is strong; for 61 years we have operated in the black while many similar institutions have struggled with weak financial positions.

None of this is to deny that the school has faced major problems in recent months. It has, and those problems are being addressed vigorously by the board of trustees, administration, and faculty.

In the editorial, five "problems" were listed. The following is a response:

- The editorial suggests that during accreditation of the law school in 1980 by the American Bar Association, the college

should have gone to court to win the right to have only Baptists on the faculty. The college's Faculty Handbook explains our approach to faculty hiring:

"Mississippi College through the years has been able to secure the services of some outstanding Christians of other denominations who have been exemplary in their devotion to the ideals of the college. However, selection of non-Baptists to fill certain positions when no equally qualified Baptist is available does not indicate a departure from the continuing purpose of the institution to seek first for committed Baptists and, when appropriately qualified Baptists are not available, to accept committed Christians whose beliefs and practices are compatible with those of the college's parent denomination."

It is important to note that 80% of the MC faculty is Baptist. But it is also critical that we remember that students must be prepared to succeed in a highly competitive, challenging world. They cannot serve God, their churches, their families, or themselves to their full potential if we settle for less than the best faculty available.

- The editorial suggested that we should not have an athletic scholarship program. The athletic

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Mississippi Baptist Convention

158th Session⁴

November 16-17, 1993
First Church, Jackson

"Pray Ye Therefore..."

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Fred Womack, Bay St. Louis

November 16

Tuesday Morning

8:45	Prelude	Organist/Pianist FBC, Jackson	First Session
8:50	Sounding of the Gavel	W.W. Walley	
8:55	Choral Praise	Sanctuary Choir, FBC, Waynesboro	
9:05	Congregational Praise	Wayne Meeks	
9:15	Organization of the Convention		
9:30	Foreign Mission Board Report	Jerry Rankin video and Introduction	
9:40	Bible Treasure	T.W. Hunt	
10:05	Report of Committee on Committees	Bill Duncan	
10:15	Presentation of Resolutions		
10:25	Congregational Praise	Wayne Meeks	
10:30	Prayer Testimony	Jackye Murray	
10:35	Election of President		
11:00	Choral Praise	Sanctuary Choir, FBC, Waynesboro	
11:05	President's Address	W.W. Walley	
11:45	Benediction	Dan Hembree	

Tuesday Afternoon

1:40	Prelude	Organist/Pianist, FBC, Jackson	Second Session
1:45	Sounding of the Gavel	Jimmy Porter	
	Congregational Praise	Mark Moore	
2:00	Prayer Testimony	George Muller (1805-1898) portrayed by Michael Lee	
2:05	Partnership Missions	Bill Hardy	
2:20	Christian Action Commission Report	Paul Jones	
2:35	Congregational Praise	Mark Moore	
2:40	Bible Treasure	T.W. Hunt	
3:05	Convention Board Report	P.J. Scott	
3:20	Business Session		
	Election of Convention Officers		
	Constitution and Bylaws Committee Report		
	Miscellaneous Business		
3:50	Congregational Praise	Mark Moore	
3:55	Vocal Praise	Men's Ensemble, FBC, McComb	
4:05	Message	Ken Hemphill	
4:35	Benediction	Gregg Thomas	

Tuesday Evening

6:30	Prelude	Mississippi Singing Churchmen	Third Session
7:00	Congregational Praise	Graham Smith	
7:10	Prayer Testimony	Ethel Dillon	
7:15	Final Presentation of Resolutions		
7:20	Recognition of Guests	W.W. Walley	
	Recognition of New Workers	Bill Causey	
7:35	Memorial Service	Louis Smith	
7:45	Choral Praise	Mississippi Singing Churchmen	
7:50	Mississippi Baptist Convention Emphasis	Bill Causey	
8:30	Benediction	David Grisham	

November 17

Wednesday Morning

8:55	Choral Praise	Doctors Four, FBC, Laurel	Fourth Session
9:05	Congregational Praise	Graham Smith	
9:15	Bible Treasure	T.W. Hunt	
9:40	Baptist Children's Village Report	Ronny Robinson	
9:50	Business Session		
	Adoption of 1994 Budget		
	Report of Committee on Nominations		
	Resolutions Committee Report (part 1)		
	Miscellaneous Business		
10:40	Congregational Praise	Graham Smith	
10:45	Prayer Testimony	Tim Potter	
10:50	Choral Praise	Doctors Four, FBC, Laurel	

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THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

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Thursday, October 14, 1993

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Jerry Rankin installed as 10th FMB president

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Jerry Rankin was formally installed as president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Oct. 10 amid the sound of horns, drums, and choir anthems at Grove Avenue Church in Richmond, Va. Perhaps the high point for Rankin himself, however, was the quietest.

It came when he and his wife, Bobbye, knelt for a prayer of dedication before 1,000 people at the installation service. They were joined on the podium by more than 20 Baptists from 11 nations who attend Richmond-area churches — representing the world Rankin will lead Southern Baptists to reach.

Tributes came from Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis; Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien; Brotherhood Commission President James Williams; Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman; and FMB trustee Chairman John Jackson, who led the service. Representatives of six other SBC agencies also attended. SBC President Ed Young, scheduled to speak, was unable to attend because of needs in his church.

Also present were Rankin's mother, Pansy of Fulton; his two children, numerous FMB staff members and about 130 missionaries, missionary candidates and missionary retirees.

Among the comments made to the Rankins, O'Brien said, Southern Baptist "women, girls and preschoolers, including your own precious mothers, have prayed for you as missionaries. Now we'll pray for you as president of the Foreign Mission Board."

Rankin paid tribute to his predecessor, R. Keith Parks, who was not present, citing him as a major influence in his own missionary career. Parks retired as FMB president a year ago citing philosophical disagreements with board trustees. He now heads the missions program of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

"We love Keith and Helen Jean Parks," Rankin said. "We started our missionary career as he was our area director (in Southeast Asia) and later became our president. He's been a personal mentor and encourager, a spiritual example in my life. I regret that they could not be here tonight."

As for the future, Rankin said, "God is leading us back as Southern Baptists to the land of the foundational truths of his Word, to fulfilling his purpose that we might

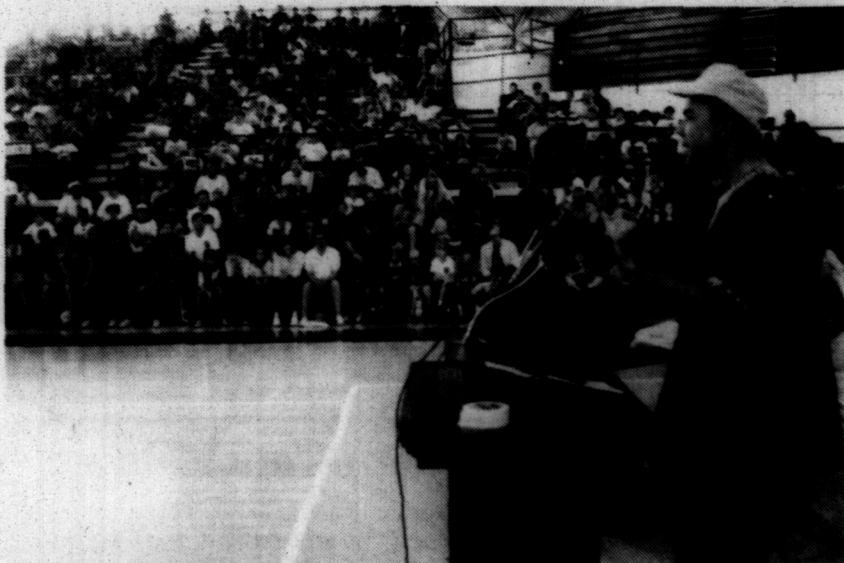
become a blessing to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ, that all the world might know him. He is bringing us to be unified, no longer concerned about power and prestige and influence, but only to lift up Jesus Christ that a lost world might know him."

God hasn't raised up Southern Baptists, Rankin declared, "to be put on the shelf, to be discarded, to become ineffective. But he's built us up and blessed us in order to

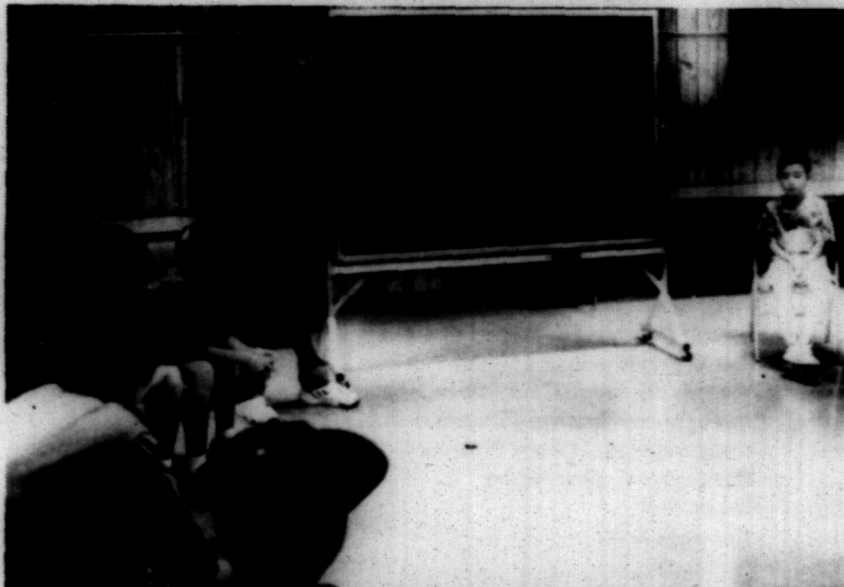
honor his Word, to exalt Jesus Christ, and to carry out the evangelistic fervor for which he has called us together in cooperation."

Rankin also disputed the notion that the Foreign Mission Board is in decline, reminding listeners that missionary ranks are nearing 4,000 in 131 countries, with several thousand additional missionary candidates now at some point in the appointment process.

Bridges writes for the FMB.



Mississippian Earl Hewitt Jr., former medical missionary to Ghana, addresses nearly 2,000 Royal Ambassadors who packed the Mississippi College Coliseum in Clinton Oct. 10 for the annual Royal Ambassador Day celebration. Hewitt modeled the latest in Ghanaian fashion, topped off with a baseball cap to give the outfit an American twist. The young men were also guests of honor at the Mississippi College vs. North Alabama College football game later that afternoon. The Brotherhood Department, MBCB, sponsored the event. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



Ken Watkins (standing), Baptist Student Union director at Mississippi State University in Starkville, leads a session for children at the International Student Conference, held Oct. 10 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. Watkins asked each child to write their name on the blackboard and explain its origin, to help the children build bridges of understanding between their cultures. Approximately 100 people from 20 countries attended the annual conference, which is sponsored by the Student Work Department, MBCB, to bring greater understanding of the Christian message to people from around the world. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



European Federation meets

The European Baptist Federation (EBF) council received seven new member unions during its annual meeting in Kishinev, Moldova. They were the Unions of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kirgizia, and Middle Asia (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan). The Egyptian Baptist Convention and the Baptist Convention of Syria were also received as EBF member bodies. The entry of these unions and conventions into EBF brings the total of affiliated member bodies to 45. **Mississippi John Merrill**, outgoing EBF president (above), presented the certificate of membership to the Kazakh representative. At the same meeting, 14 new Moldovan Baptist home missionaries were the subject of prayer and blessing (top photo). For the more than 2,000 Moldovan Baptists in the audience, the prayer service symbolized the opportunities they now enjoy to spread the gospel in their land. (EBPS photos by Stanley Crabb)

Youth Ministers Conference slated

The Youth Ministers Conference, Oct. 18-20, at Lake Tiak O'Khata near Louisville, is designed for any person working with youths — ministers, volunteers, and their spouses. General sessions will be led by Richard Ross of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Phil Briggs of Southwestern Seminary, and Scott Allen of National Student Ministry at the BSSB. For registration information, contact the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, MBCB, at (601) 968-3800.

Continued from page 3

10:55 Convention Sermon
11:30 Benediction

Frank Pollard
Jerry Bishop

Wednesday Afternoon

1:20 Prelude
1:40 Bible Treasure
2:05 Business Session
2:30 WMU Report
2:40 Evangelism Report
2:50 Congregational Praise
2:55 Prayer Testimony
3:00 Choral Praise
3:05 Board of Ministerial Education Report
3:10 Spotlight on Christian Education and Introduction of College Presidents
Mississippi College Report
3:25 Choral Praise
3:30 Message
4:10 Benediction

Fifth Session
Mississippi College Chorale
T.W. Hunt

Marjean Patterson
Garland McKee
Richard Joiner
Wayne Moore
Mississippi College Choral
J.M. Wood

Frank Hamon

Mississippi College Chorale
Don Wilton
Steve Jackson

Wednesday Evening

7:00 Prelude
7:10 Congregational Praise
7:20 Choral Praise
7:30 Prayer Testimony
7:35 Congregational Praise
7:40 Choral Praise
7:45 Message
8:30 Benediction

Sixth Session
Organist/Pianist, FBC, Jackson
J.M. Wood
Mass Senior Adult Choir
Meralyn Peterson
J.M. Wood
Senior Adult Choir
S. Truett Cathy
Joe Armour

Russian officials assure Baptists of bright future

By Marty Croll

MOSCOW (BP) — As the Russian Parliament building still smoldered five miles away, officials loyal to President Boris Yeltsin assured Russian Baptists Oct. 5 that their churches will play a key role in creating a new, free society.

The government overtures to the 29th Russian Baptist Congress, attended by 1,000 Russian Baptists, came as a marked departure from recent rebuffs to Baptists and other evangelicals by another branch of the government — the now-defunct Parliament.

"We are now trying to overcome our past ideology, and we now stand before great possibilities," said Vladimir Shumejka, first deputy prime minister of Russia, in a prepared statement to the Baptist congress.

"Great changes in our society have created equal rights for all (religious) confessions in the nation. Christianity is a great support and a great hope," he said.

The deputy prime minister's statement, read by Kremlin representative Mikhailov Genrich, promised Baptists they would "make a big contribution in... the spiritual revival of society. We know your spiritual activity. But we know your social activity will help those who need it."

Since April, Parliament had brushed off attempts by evangelicals to change a proposed law that would have limited their right to worship and kept them from inviting foreign missionaries to help spread the gospel.

The law would have helped the

Russian Orthodox Church retake some of the power it held before communists overran the country in 1917 and began attacking the church by murder, exile, and KGB infiltration. The Parliament committee that drafted the law and its revisions squelched Baptist input.

The officials' remarks to the Baptist congress, in contrast, signal the winding down of an era of persecution and recognition by power brokers that Russian Baptists — who number in the hundreds of thousands — are here to stay.

In conjunction with the congress, Baptists celebrated the realization of two long-held dreams: a new seminary and a new Baptist center in Moscow.

After years of broken promises by government agencies under communism, the Moscow Baptist Theological Seminary finally became official with the presentation of its first 17 students at its Oct. 3 dedication and the first meeting of its board of directors Oct. 5.

Classes will meet for the first two years in the new five-story building of the Russian Baptist union. About 300 people attended the dedication ceremonies for that building, a long-time dream of Vasily Logvinenko. Congress members recognized Logvinenko, who is retiring after a long term as president of the union.

Croll writes for FMB.

'92-93 CBF global missions offering falls short of goal

ATLANTA (BP) — The first global missions offering for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship reached 91.2% of the \$2 million goal, according to Cecil Sherman, CBF coordinator.

The offering, with an emphasis from November 1992 to May 1993, was for both home and foreign missions because the CBF promotes only one missions offering. The theme was "Keeping the Promises."

Sherman said the offering was \$1,824,000 as of Sept. 1, or 91.2% of the goal.

"This is a first effort for us (CBF)," Sherman said, "and we

feel good about our progress."

The goal's theme was broken into three areas: support for the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, with \$345,000 sent; promise to support "old order" missionaries (those who cannot in good conscience work for the SBC) with \$1.2 million raised; and the promise to "help the needy and the helpless and the oppressed," with \$279,000 raised out of a goal of \$455,000.

The CBF will begin collecting its 1993-94 global missions offering in November with a goal of \$3 million.

Church Media Library Conference slated for First, Madison, November

The 22nd Annual Church Media Library (CML) Conference

will be held Nov. 12-13, at First Church, Madison. The officers have planned outstanding conferences this year to help church media library workers in every phase of their responsibilities.

The 1993-94 CML theme is "Focus on Service." As a service program in a church, the media library relates to all programs and activities as it provides materials and equipment to enrich each aspect of church life.

The conference leaders include Danny Ayala, Stephen Gateley, and Pat Brown, consultants in the CML Program,

Baptist Sunday School Board; Elizabeth Horton, regular columnist with

Church Media Library Magazine and media library director at Haywood Hills Church, Nashville; Bo Prosser, associate pastor, Forest Hills Church, Raleigh, N.C.;

and Peggy Tacon, media library director, Dauphin Way Church, Mobile, Ala.

Registration fee is \$10 per person which includes lunch and dinner at the church on Friday and other conference materials. Reservations are needed. Registration deadline is Nov. 2. Make checks payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and mail to Broadcast Services/CML, P.O. Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530.

The conference begins on Friday with registration at 9:30 a.m. in Room 121 at the church, and concludes at 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

For more information contact Broadcast Services Department at

the Baptist Building in Jackson, (601) 968-3800.

The 1992-93 officers for the Mississippi Church Media Library Organization are: president, Joan Beasley, Wes-

son; vice-president, Billie Breland, Cleveland; secretary-treasurer, Carolyn Harris, Meridian; program

chairman, Mary Jo Harrison, Madison; historian, Dixie Hicks, Greenville; publicity chairman, Juanita Hight, Louisville; TACMO representative, Faye Miller, Hattiesburg; ex-officio, Sharon Neff, Arcola; and church media library director, Farrell Blankenship, Jackson.



Ayala



Prosser



Gateley



Brown



Horton

Historical Commission journal reviews SBC strife since 1979

Thursday, October 14, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

NASHVILLE (BP) — Conservative and moderate Southern Baptists agree 1979 was a pivotal year in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention. But views of what happened during and since 1979 differ depending on whether you read articles by Richard Land and James Hefley or Bill Leonard and Stan Haste.

Land, Leonard, Haste, and Hefley provide a point-counterpoint look at the last 14 years of SBC history in the October 1993 issue of the journal *Baptist History and Heritage*, "The Southern Baptist Convention, 1979-1993: What Happened and Why?" published by the SBC's Historical Commission.

Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, provides a conservative perspective in his article and cites James P. Boyce, Basil Manly Jr., John R. Broadus, John R. Sampey, A.T. Robertson, and J.M. Frost as examples of former Southern Baptist leaders who were united theologically by a commonly held belief in the infallibility of Scripture.

Bill Leonard, professor of religion at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., representing the moderate movement, disagrees with Land. "(Land) runs the now-familiar litany of selected quotes from selected leaders, suggesting

that consensus was determined solely by the issue of biblical inerrancy.... Nothing could be further from the truth. As David Dockery has recently shown (in his book *The Doctrine of the Bible*), there are six to seven different views of that doctrine which exist among inerrantists themselves."

By tracing the outcomes of the evolution controversy of the 1920s, the Elliott controversy of the early 1960s, and the Broadman controversy of the late 1960s and early 1970s, Land shows the frustration of conservatives at "winning the votes in public, and losing at the level of institutional implementation in private."

Land states this frustration — coupled with "a rapidly growing awareness that some of the Southern Baptist seminaries and universities were drastically to the left" — motivated conservatives to direct the convention's course back toward a consensus of biblical inerrancy. He identifies at least five groups involved in the conflict — "fundamentalists," "conservatives," "theological conservatives and political moderates," "theological moderates," and "true liberals."

Land says this "course correction" was accomplished when conservatives recognized the appointive powers of the SBC's elected president and decided "to use the presidency... to effect the

changes they believed were urgently needed by changing the trustee boards of... various (SBC) institutions and agencies." He notes the challenge ahead for Southern Baptist leadership is to "seek to work with those ... (theological moderates) who are amenable to cooperative effort as a minority within a thoroughly conservative denomination."

Leonard acknowledges conservative Southern Baptists have indeed changed the makeup of Southern Baptist agencies. However, he said he believes conservatives have wanted more than consensus on biblical inspiration. "Southern Baptists discovered soon enough that when the fundamentalist subgroup gained majorities on trustee boards, they quickly demanded consensus on a variety of theological, sociological, and political agendas...."

Leonard ends by noting, "... Southern Baptists are beginning to reap what they have sown. In their fear of being overtaken by the left, Southern Baptists failed to recognize that a denomination can also be torn apart from the right. It has been a painful lesson to learn. We all lost, didn't we?"

Copies of "The Southern Baptist Convention 1979-1993: What Happened And Why?" are available for purchase from the Historical Commission by calling the commission toll-free at 1-800-966-BAPT.

Foreign Mission Board intensifies World A focus



(BP) GRAPHIC By Marty Croll

WORLD "A" TARGETED — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB) already has 432 workers targeting the 1.2 billion people of World A, most of whom have never heard the gospel message. That focus will intensify in 1994, with 41% of top-priority missionary personnel requests seeking people to take the gospel to the least-evangelized areas. At mid-1993, the FMB was targeting 80 of the world's 212 least-evangelized "megapeople" groups, each of which contains 1 million or more people.

State CBF convenes in Hattiesburg, elects officers for coming year

Missions was the major issue of the Mississippi Cooperative Baptist Fellowship at its annual meeting Oct. 9 in Hattiesburg.

Mississippian Allen Williams, his wife, and three children, have been appointed missionaries to Eastern Europe. Allen gave his testimony on how God had brought them to their decision of commitment to missions. He is the son of Glen Williams, director of missions for Pike Association.

Paul Thibodeaux made a major address to the Fellowship on his work in Eastern Europe (see page 6, "Bosnia is ripe for civil war"), emphasizing that lone ranger-type evangelism, para-church groups,

and cults are doing much damage to church-style evangelism in the area.

Carolyn Crumpler, former executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, emphasized the CBF is not trying to compete with Southern Baptist Convention missions, but is concentrating on World A countries.

There were 98 registered messengers plus visitors. Gene Triggs, Jackson layman, was re-elected president; Charles Myers, retired Jackson pastor, was elected vice president; and Doug Haney, minister of music at First Church, Meridian, was elected secretary.

William Jewell's Kingsley asks for quick retirement

LIBERTY, Mo. (BP) — In a surprise announcement, William Jewell College President J. Gordon Kingsley announced he has asked the school's trustees for early retirement, effective immediately.

In a statement shared with the college community Oct. 1, Kingsley cited philosophical differences with the board of trustees.

Dean of the college, Jimmie E. Tanner, and vice president for student affairs, Gary Phelps, read the statement prepared by Kingsley, who wrote his primary interest was in the welfare of the college. He urged "fullest cooperation with the board of trustees, Dr. Tanner as the interim president, and our succeeding president."

Tanner told the student newspaper he had assumed interim president responsibilities the previous day, Sept. 30.

Kingsley is a graduate of Mississippi College and holds graduate degrees from the University of

Missouri and New Orleans Seminary.

Joe Hasson dies Oct. 8

Mississippi Baptist pastor Joe L. Hasson Sr., 54, of Ellisville died Oct. 8 at Methodist Hospital in Hattiesburg following a lengthy illness. Services were held Oct. 10 at First Church, Laurel.

Prior to his illness, Hasson was pastor of Pine Grove Church, Ellisville. He also had served as pastor of Westview, Jackson; Oak Hill, Evansville, Ind.; Emmanuel, Jackson; First, Waveland; Union Seminary, Jasper County; and as associate pastor of Glendale, Hattiesburg. He was a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary.

He is survived by his wife Mary, three children, three sisters, and three brothers.

Chaplain's call to service includes patient visits, many other duties

By Al Carden

Final in a series

During my chaplaincy training at Baptist Hospital in Pensacola, Fla., I was introduced to the stress



Carden

of being the "on-call" chaplain. Should emergencies arise during the course of the day or night, the on-call chaplain responds where there is a need for spiritual guidance, comfort, or just a presence of assurance.

Because chaplains are not the only persons in the hospital who provide help and assistance to patients, we work as team members to provide ministry for the whole person. This is an excellent opportunity to extend pastoral care to the emergency room staff, not to mention the needs of patients and their families who experience the stress and drama of the emergency room.

I am a team player. Team-playing is essential when so many professional disciplines contribute to the welfare of the patient. Being a team player is important in the pastoral care department.

I am one of five full-time chaplains on staff at Mississippi Baptist

Medical Center (MBMC) in Jackson. We regularly meet for prayer and peer support. Periodically, activities are planned outside the hospital to promote fellowship and comradery.

My team-playing philosophy is growing to include the pastors in our state. So often people are admitted to this hospital who live long distances from Jackson. Pastors are invited to contact our department concerning their parishioner's admission. In the pastor's absence, our staff is available to be their representatives. Our telephone number is (601) 968-5146.

Along with patient visitation, there are responsibilities for pastoral care to non-clinical areas. These are departments that do not have direct access to patient care.

Not long ago, I was requested to lead the entire pharmacy department in prayer for a fellow worker having surgery at Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas.

Word reached me that the wife of the patient was by herself in Houston with no support. A telephone call was made to the pastoral care department at Methodist in Houston to request a chaplain offer ministry to her.

MBMC houses the only Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program in the state. There are six stu-

dents undergoing ministry training in the clinical setting. CPE reminds me of the didactic relationship between Jesus and his disciples. He spent hours with them, teaching by example to love and show compassion to everyone.

These students share practical ministry experiences by visiting hospital patients and reporting on their ministry. Two of these students are assigned to units for which I am responsible. I help them with their assignments and report directly to their supervisor as to their ministry on my units.

Baptists are not the only patients we serve. There are varying denominations, races, and beliefs. I surprised a Jehovah's Witness one day when I entered his room for a visit. After my introduction, he quickly informed me that he was a Jehovah's Witness.

My reply perhaps startled him. I said, "Sir, it wouldn't matter if you were Buddhist. Pain is pain, no matter what you believe."

My hope is that perhaps someone will ask me why I make these visits and why I am concerned for their welfare. Then I will point to Christ and tell them of his love for them.

Carden is a chaplain at MBMC and interim music director at Castlewoods Church in Rankin County.

Paul Thibodeaux warns: Bosnia is ripe for holy war

By Don McGregor

A Mississippian representing Southern Baptists in Eastern Europe, specifically Yugoslavia, feels that the conflicts now wracking Bosnia-Herzegovina are fueled by religious concerns as much as by political conditions, if not more so.

In fact, he fears that the area is ripe for a holy war.

Paul Thibodeaux and his wife, Margie, were Southern Baptist fraternal representatives to Eastern Europe for 10 years before their present furlough in Starkville. They spent a great deal of that time working in Yugoslavia, sometimes living there.

At one time they had intended to settle permanently in Yugoslavia, but they were not able to obtain permanent visas. Nevertheless, from their base in nearby Vienna, they spent a great deal of time in what was Yugoslavia; and they lived there for several months.

Thibodeaux was pastor of Mantee Church, Mantee, when the couple was appointed as missionaries to Eastern Europe in December of 1982.



Margie and Paul Thibodeaux

The Thibodeauxs had intended to live in Yugoslavia for a year to learn the language and to build bridges of relationship and trust, Thibodeaux said. They wanted to live in a communist country that was not Stalinist. They did live there for seven months while he studied in the University of Zagreb in Croatia, and they worshipped in the Zagreb Baptist Church. They traveled to Serbia and Bosnia and participated in a coffeehouse ministry during the winter Olympics in Sarajevo in 1984. And he served as a guest professor at the seminary in Novi Sad.

Being unable to obtain permanent visas for Yugoslavia, they moved back to Vienna in April 1984. He continued to travel into Yugoslavia two or three times each month.

Out of the total population of 22 million in all of what was Yugoslavia, there are 3,500 Baptists, Thibodeaux noted. Less than 1% of the population is Protestant. He has been told that since the beginning of the war, more people have been baptized and more churches started. The Tito brand of communism was not as brutal as that of Russia, Hungary, Romania, and Czechoslovakia, he said. Russia and Romania had the harshest persecution. "Maybe what the believers did in some cases would not be judged as being ethical; but they survived, and their faith survived," he declared. "In times of persecution, people turn to other things — some to drink, some to the black market, and some to the church."

But he added, "Since the fall of the (Berlin) wall and freedom, discouraged people are interested only in going shopping."

The Thibodeauxs have resigned as missionaries of the Foreign Mission Board. In January 1993, they joined the missions force of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and he began to serve as a special assistant to the general secretary of the European Baptist Fellowship. He has been working on plans for the relocation of the seminary at Ruschlikon. In May, the Thibodeauxs began a furlough; and in August they moved into the home of Marvin and Jean Bond, who have gone to Hong Kong to help in the relocation of the seminary there. The Thibodeauxs will return to the field in May 1994.

During their years in Austria, Margie was involved in a Bible study with Catholic women. Of the 7 million population of Austria, 6.3 million are Catholic. There are 700 Baptists in the country.

Thibodeaux said that he left the Foreign Mission Board because he is not a political person. "I am a middle of the road, conservative Southern Baptist," he said.

"My role was building bridges of relationship and trust in Eastern Europe. I hope to go back there."

McGregor is BAPTIST RECORD editor emeritus.

Local conference calling — Winona church seeks innovative means of ministry to homebound

First Church, Winona, has made plans to use a local conferencing telephone service to teach Sunday School lessons to homebound members and their caretakers.

When implemented, the plan will enable two teachers of senior classes to reach over 30 people in about 22 homes each Sunday.

Johnny Walker, pastor, will also be able to hold a "fireside chat" and prayer time — a vital weekly contact with these members.

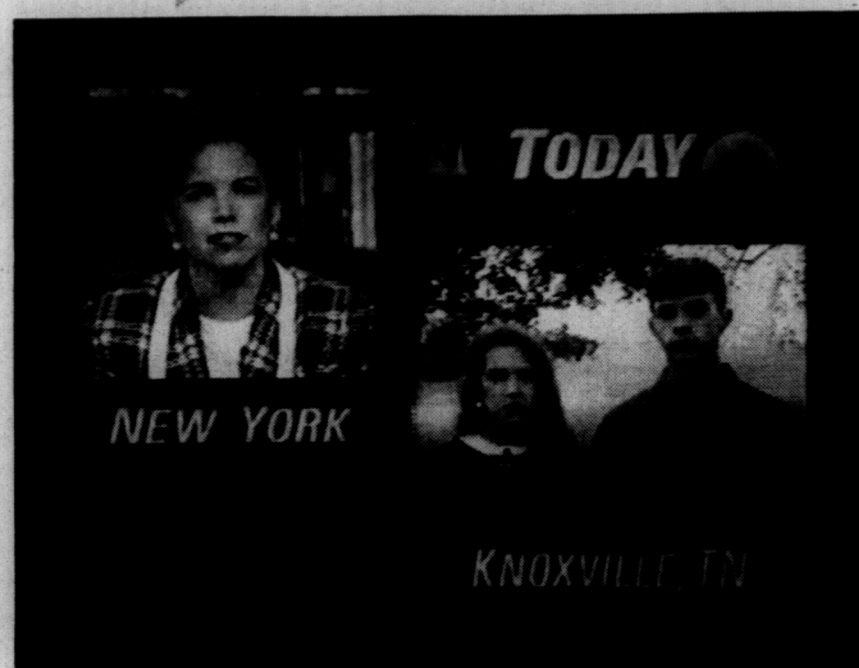
The Sunday contact will be followed by weekly visitations to the homebound members.

First Church has hit several obstacles in searching for this means of ministry to its homebound. First, Mississippi does not have the local rate conferencing capability. By using AT&T's long distance conferencing, the capacity is available, but the cost, prohibitive.

Bo Robinson, northern division public service commission-

er, along with the staffs at AT&T and South Central Bell, have initiated a plan to furnish the conferencing service at a local, feasible fee.

Persons interested in providing this service as part of the ministry of their churches should write South Central Bell, AT&T, and the public service commissioner. Contacts should encourage those offices to make the local conferencing service available throughout Mississippi.



NEW YORK — Katie Couric, co-host of NBC's "Today" show, interviewed University of Tennessee students Paul Ballenger and Susan Fitzgerald about their involvement in "True Love Waits." The Baptist Sunday School Board-sponsored abstinence campaign has generated nationwide media coverage. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

"True Love Waits" hits NBC's "Today"

By Chip Alford

NEW YORK (BP) — Given today's moral climate, adults might question whether any teenagers would be willing to take a public vow of sexual abstinence until marriage.

They might also question whether the secular media would give national exposure to a campaign that would encourage them to do so.

Both are happening.

Richard Ross, co-coordinator of the Baptist Sunday School Board-sponsored "True Love Waits" campaign appeared on NBC's "Today" show Sept. 29 along with University of Tennessee students Paul Ballenger and Susan Fitzgerald — two of the first teens to sign abstinence pledges.

"The sexual revolution of the '60s continues to influence American behavior, but a new call is being made today to teenagers urging them to return to traditional values and to practice abstinence," "Today" co-host Katie Couric said in her introduction to a five-minute segment on "True Love Waits."

Ross, interviewed live in NBC's New York studio, said teens are getting the message that "adults have given up on them. It has caused them to believe that 'Adults think we are going to be sexually promiscuous. They think we can't control ourselves.' Now we never intended to give them that message, but that's what they've heard."

Abstinence as a responsible and healthy lifestyle choice has been "de-emphasized" to teens in recent

years, Ross said. "I think we've been so concerned about the health issues (related to sexual activity) that we've forgotten that teenagers are very open to choosing abstinence."

Ballenger, a junior at U.T. and Fitzgerald's steady boyfriend, said choosing abstinence wasn't a difficult decision for him.

"My mom taught me all the time that abstinence was the most important thing. She never really taught me the option of condoms and other forms of birth control. (Abstinence) is what God wanted me to do," he said.

Asked if her friends thought she was "weird" for abstaining, Fitzgerald answered: "No, actually most all my friends are real sup-

portive, even if they've already had sex.... I even hear some people tell me, 'I wish I would have waited.'"

Couric asked Ross if "True Love Waits" takes any political stands against sex education or the distribution of condoms in schools.

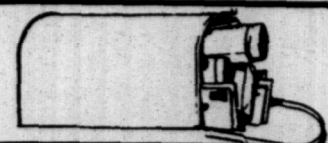
"It's not an anti-anything campaign; it's just a clear, positive call to abstinence," he responded. "And the wonderful thing is, teenagers are actually accepting that call."

"I know that many adults would question whether or not teenagers would make a commitment like this. But last Sunday morning in one church (Champion Forest in Houston), 500 teenagers said, 'Yes, this is what we want,' and (this same thing) is happening everywhere."

Alford writes for the BSSB.

Trying to track down information about "True Love Waits?" Answers to your questions can be found by calling 1-800-LUV-WAIT between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. (CST Monday-Friday).

Individuals wishing to order the "True Love Waits" campaign kit, audiocassette, or the Christian sex education resources should call the BSSB's customer service line, 1-800-458-2772.



Letters to the editor



Fond remembrances

Editor:

My mother Mrs. G.C. (Alma) Hodge was 97 on Sept. 12 and still goes over *The Baptist Record* every week. She does not remember when she first started reading it, but it could not have been later than 1918, when she married my father, G.C. Hodge. After Southwestern Seminary, they served at places like Fayette, Union Church, Pleasant Hill, Hamburg, Lorman, and Red Lick. *The Baptist Record* was certainly a mainstay there.

In the late 1920s, Dad was in the state headquarters as stewardship and budget director. His main job was to visit churches and convince them to join the new Cooperative Program instead of sending money straight to whatever organizations and missionaries appealed to them most. My childhood memory is that *The Baptist Record* was run from the second floor offices on the northeast corner of Capitol and President streets. I remember the men in the headquarters as wearing large stiff collars, black garters around their shirt sleeves, and occasionally small round eyeglasses and green visors. However, when visiting Dad at the office, I much preferred to read in the Baptist book store on the first floor.

After we moved to Biloxi in the 1930s, [A.L.] Goodrich, *Baptist Record* editor in those years, would use every chance to come down and fish with Dad. He liked his morning coffee, while Dad had given it up to be a good example for his children. One time Goodrich bought a pound which he and Dad made and enjoyed.

The remainder in the brown paper bag was left on the shelf for some months in the coast humidity. On Goodrich's next trip, Mom offered to make him some coffee, though she did not know how, never having drunk it. There is a family joke about how that boiled stale coffee must have tasted. Right after breakfast Goodrich walked to the grocery and made us a present of a percolator as well as some fresh coffee!

Mom was a great saver of *Baptist Records*, but we would not have space to turn around had we kept them all. We do have a couple from the 1930s and clippings from earlier ones.

Thank you for continuing to give us news of both sides of the controversy, whether good or bad. There have always been, and always will be differences, but we look forward to the time when most Baptists will follow John 13:34, 35.

Bill Hodge
Ocean Springs

Read about a brother

Editor:

First, let me express to you my appreciation for your very pertinent editorials in *The Baptist Record*. They have been very informative, in light of our present status as Christians.

Next, let me thank you for the article and picture on Ephraim Chewaka of Ethiopia in the Sept. 23 issue.

It is with pleasure that I received this article, for you see, this young man is one of the several whom I considered my "adopted Ethiopian young people." We worked together, and I

had the privilege of helping to disciple him at one of the Baptist Feeding Stations in 1986-87. The station is Meragna. We were able to plant a church there as we fed those starving people. The church is alive and well today, despite many communist and Orthodox Church persecutions.

I had lost my mother a short while before I went to Ethiopia and had taken with me her *Bible Commentary*. It was my privilege to leave this, along with an International Version of the Bible, in the hands of Ephraim. These types of books are not available in Ethiopia.

After I returned to Ethiopia in 1988, Ephraim contracted T.B. Thanks to our being able to bring medication into the country, today he is free of this disease. The treatment is two years, and this was during the communist fall and the country had no medications.

I see him now, well and happy and going about evangelizing in the name of Jesus. I like knowing that he is using the commentary and the Bible we were able to provide.

Now, is not this what foreign missions is all about?

Betty Barham
Retired missionary to Ethiopia
Sontag

Would Mary choose?

Editor:

Ed McDaniel, pastor of Trace Ridge Church, Ridgeland, wrote Sept. 30: "One has to wonder how different our lives would be today if there had been a local abortion clinic and a 'Right to Privacy' for Mary." Is he suggesting that he believes that Mary, rather than bear the Son of God, would have chosen an abortion if it had been an available option for her? Was she the type of person who might have disregarded the angel's message from God and destroyed the fruit planted in her womb? And if she had been so inclined, what of God's plan? Would God have allowed his son and therefore the salvation of the world to be aborted?

Judy Tucker
Jackson

Heart songs are best

Editor:

I am trying to write a response to Morton's letter of July 29, "Turn down the volume," but I am having a "volume interference."

On my right across the street is a high school band practicing with all vim and vigor. On my left, 10 feet away, is a mockingbird trying hard to out-volume the band.

I am a 90-year-old with a handicap. I worship with different TV church congregations.

Sometimes a singer or singers come to the podium and the music drowns their voices.

I say to the Lord, "Why doesn't someone tell them?" Brother Morton did, and we thank him.

When the congregation stands and with joyous hearts sings the first song, the tensions of the morning (such as "everybody up, everybody eat and dress, we are going to be late") fade away.

In reference to singing, David said, "Hear the word."

So the soft background music of the organ and all instruments can stir the soul as we hear.

This singing and praying can be a receptive and precious prelude to God's message by the pastor.

No music with words can be found anywhere more beautiful than in the *Baptist Hymnal*.

So, sing, sing, sing!
Mabel Watts
Pascagoula

Correction, please

Editor:

Thank you for your interest in clarifying the statistics presented in "CP dollars go to work in Baptist Student Union efforts, spheres," an article which appeared in *The Baptist Record* on Sept. 9, 1993. The statistics quoted are misleading. The article states that Campus Crusade has 1,600 staff members; that is incorrect. *The Campus Ministry of*

Campus Crusade has 1,600 staff. Campus Crusade for Christ as a whole has more than 40,000 full-time and associate staff members and trained volunteers worldwide. The article also stated that Campus Crusade reached 15,000 students, while the Baptist Student Union reached over 191,000 students. How is the word "reached" defined? According to Campus Crusade's National Campus Office, nearly 19,000 students were involved in groups on campus through Campus Crusade, and some 635,000 were exposed to the gospel in the 1992-93 school year. If you have any questions regarding the statistics presented, please contact Craig Domeck in our National Campus office at (407) 826-2517.

I appreciate your willingness to correct any misconceptions that the story may have presented. It is my sincere hope that all evangelical groups working on the college campuses will cooperate in an effort to share the love of Christ with as many students as possible. Thank you for your help in "setting the record straight!"

Sophia C. Schwarz
Campus Crusade for
Christ International
Orlando, Fla.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I have been single all 40 years of my life. I want a woman who will be a committed Christian wife, and I am finding there are few women who meet my qualifications and standards. Any suggestions?

It is good that you have a list of qualifications and standards for a future marriage partner. One reason so many relationships fail is that the partners fail to plan. Knowing what you are looking for is necessary to find the right mix in a relationship. However, we often set our goals too high or unrealistic. Goals and standards need to be constantly re-evaluated. Look at qualifications and standards on which you could compromise, but not those that involve Christian values and principles (contrary to our secular media blitz). Standards that involve outward appearance, occupation, and family background could become "change points." I would also direct you to the little book, *Choices: Finding God's Way in Dating, Sex, Singleness, and Marriage*, by Stacy and Paula Rinehart.

I have just found out that my 14-year-old daughter is having sex with her 16-year-old boyfriend. Both of them are strong youth leaders in the church. What should I do?

First of all, don't over-react, even though you are greatly troubled. Approach your daughter and her boyfriend together and get the story from them. Let them have an opportunity to discuss their relationship with an adult present. By withholding your anger, disgust, shame, and fear, you acknowledge they are sexual beings and have an opportunity to share with them that sex is created by God for a husband and wife. Follow this by offering good reading material like the new series on sexuality from the Baptist Sunday School Board. Lastly, set boundaries for your daughter, such as the time she should be in and places she and her boyfriend can go, and promote discussions on the goals they have for their relationship. By being a facilitator of their changing bodies, you become their ally in this struggle rather than their worst enemy.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name and address not required. Remember: In time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

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A Ministry of Morrison Heights Baptist Church

Just for the Record



Concord Church, Yazoo Association, recently held a coronation service for its GAs and Acteens. Those who were honored are shown, left to right: Tosha Durden; Dena Bates; Alicia Kirk; Angela Chapman, queen; Suzanne Crosby, Acteens director; Mary Jane Warnock, GA director; Connie Warnock, queen; Joann Grantham; Rachel Perry; and Elizabeth Warnock.



Center Church, Union Association, recently observed "I Love My Church Day," and burned the note on its family life center. Those who participated in the note burning are, left to right: Archie Goodwin, pastor, A.J. Dillard, Floyce Dillard, Richard Carr, Larry Wood, Terry Towery, and Roy Coker.

First Church, Pearl, will celebrate its 40th Anniversary Oct. 17. Major Speights will be the guest speaker in the 10:30 a.m. service. Following lunch, an

afternoon service will highlight the church's history. Sunday School and the evening service will not be held. John T. Brock is pastor.

Revival Dates

Temple, Jackson: Oct. 17-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 nightly; speakers nightly, Chuck King, Jackson, Sun. & Mon.; Claude Shufelt, Morton, Tues. & Wed.; Jim Futral, Jackson, Thurs.; Steve Bushey, Brandon, music; Jeff Harrison, pastor.

New Sight, Brookhaven: Oct. 17-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Dwight Smith, evangelist; Price Harris, music; Edgar Lee Wright, pastor.

Antioch (Simpson): Oct. 17-29; 7:30 nightly; Tommy Anderson, Pearl, evangelist; Johnny Speedling, music; George Lewis, pastor.

North Batesville (Panola): Oct. 17-22; Sunday, 7 p.m.; 7:30 nightly; Lowell Johnson, Tupelo, evangelist; Don Brummett, Courtland, music; Rick Glidewell, pastor.

Adaton (Oktibbeha): Oct. 17-20; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; 7 nightly; Paul Wrenn of Tennessee, evangelist; Dudley Brasher, Adaton, music; Hal Selby, pastor.

First, Nettleton: Oct. 17-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; 7:30 nightly; Don Womack, Memphis, evangelist; Randy Wood, Verona, music; George C. Johnson Jr., pastor.

First, New Albany: Oct. 17-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; 7 nightly; Ron Dunn, Irving, Texas, evangelist; Phil Nanney, New Albany, music; Tom Sumrall, pastor.

Beacon, Hattiesburg: Oct. 17-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; 7 nightly; W.A. Fordham, evangelist; Mike Wallace, music; Keith Manuel, pastor.

Trinity Church in Rankin County will conduct a Lay Renewal Weekend Oct. 15-17. Leaders for the weekend will be lay people from Mississippi and Alabama. Kenny Goff is pastor.

Byram Church, Jackson, is hosting a Fall Carnival Oct. 23, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The carnival will include games, arts and craft booths, and food. Call (601) 372-5886 for more information.

United States District Judge Tom S. Lee, a Mississippi College alumnus, will speak in the school's chapel services Oct. 25 and 27. The addresses are part of the 1993 Spell Lectures, sponsored by the Department of Religion and Philosophy. Chapel is held at 10 a.m. in Nelson Hall. For more information, call (601) 925-3218.

The Blackwood Brothers of Memphis will be the guests of Grace Church, Vicksburg, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m., and Macedonia Church, Lee County, Oct. 17 at 6:30 p.m.

MC

From page 2

one of only three states in the country whose students are not offered such grants. Families with students in private colleges pay the same taxes as students in public-supported colleges and should receive the benefits generated by those taxes.

As for administering federal student financial aid programs, we are astounded that anyone would question this practice. Those government funds should be available to our students and parents because they paid the taxes meant for those programs. The government does not own that money, the citizens own it. Our students should be supported just as those of any other school are supported. None of these funds go directly to the college; they are provided as financial aid to students.

5. The final opinion stated in the editorial suggested that somehow there was an attitude that MC was separate from the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Simply stated,

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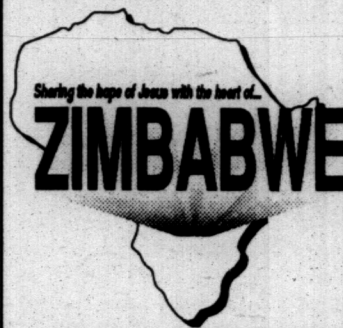
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David Carlton, pastor of Fairview Church, Sunflower Association, witnessed a demonic possession during a September baptismal service. He witnessed the event as people helped a woman to have an evil spirit replaced by the Holy Spirit as she received Christ.

The next trip to Zimbabwe is scheduled for Jan. 14-Feb. 3, 1994. A group of 10 volunteers is requested to conduct evangelism, discipleship, and church planting.

If your church or group wants to respond to these needs, contact the Partnership Missions Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205; telephone (601) 968-3800.



such an attitude does not exist. MC has been a Baptist college for 143 years. If we were not so strongly tied to the convention, this editorial reply would not have been written.

The conclusion is this: There have been recent issues to address. These issues are being resolved with all due diligence. But the central focus of what Mississippi College stands for, and its role in Christian higher education, is not at issue today. The actions of one or two individuals should not raise questions about the aspirations of those thousands who have not strayed from the course, nor cast shadows of doubt over their magnificent accomplishments. A close look at the excellent work of our faculty, and the superior achieve-

ments of our graduates, says without question that the college is on course and headed in the right direction.

— MC board of trustees.

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Homecomings

Jayess (Lawrence): Oct. 17; worship, 11 a.m.; Richard Green, Monticello, speaker; covered dish lunch; 1:30 p.m. singing with Sherrod Rayborn & The Sonshine Trio, Monticello; Eddie H. Bates, pastor.

Chunky (Newton): Oct. 17; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch; Curtis Guess, House, speaker; Wayne Campbell, pastor.

First, Oloh: Oct. 17; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Doug Benedict, director of missions, Lamar Association, speaker; Bill Hermann, Brookhaven, music; lunch followed by afternoon sing, featuring

Family Gospel Singers, Purvis; Jipper Williford, pastor.

New Hope (Marion): Oct. 17; worship, 11 a.m.; James Fancher, Jackson, speaker; noon luncheon; 7 p.m. service; Kent Campbell, pastor.

First, Mathiston: Oct. 17; Sunday School 10 a.m.; worship 11 a.m.; noon luncheon; 1:30 p.m. program; Owen Riddick, pastor.

Blythe Creek, Mathiston: Oct. 17; 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing, 1, featuring New Horizon; no night services; Gregory Foster, pastor.

Staff Changes

John Wells has been called as minister of music of **First Church, Philadelphia.** The Jackson native grew up in Alta Woods Church, and has served churches in Alabama and Mississippi.

Johnson Creek Church, State Line, has called **Robert Dansby** of Petal as pastor. He began duties on Sept. 5.

Doug Brinson, former minister of youth/education at **Cleary Church, Florence,** has become minister of education/administra-

tion/outreach at **Parkhills Church, San Antonio, Texas.**

First Church, Louisville, has called **Jason K. Lee** of Mobile, Ala., as minister of youth. He is a graduate of Mobile College and New Orleans Seminary. **Edd Brashier,** minister of music/senior adults at First Church, Louisville, has resigned to accept the position of minister of music at **Porter Memorial Church, Louisville, Ky.,** effective Sept. 26.

Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto, has called **Gary Sloan** as pastor effective Sept. 19. A native of Memphis, he received his education at Mid-America Seminary. He has served churches in Tennessee and Mississippi.

On May 17, 1991, a brilliant bolt of lightning struck the 90-member Valley Baptist Church in Middletown, Pennsylvania, causing a fire that destroyed the building.

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—Robert M. Colvin Jr., Pastor

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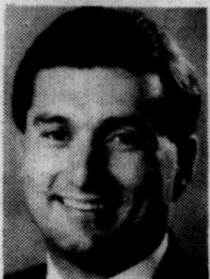
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Thursday, October 14, 1993

Names in the News

Daniel Lewis Lanier, staff evangelist at Northcrest Church, Meridian, received the Doctor of



Lanier

Ministry degree Aug. 13 from Covington Theological Seminary, Rossville, Ga. Lanier attended Clarke College, Mississippi College, Gulf Coast Seminary, and Southern Baptist Center for Biblical Studies. He served as pastor of churches for seven years and is in his 10th year in full time evangelism. He is the son of the late W.L. Lanier of Beulah Hubbard community and Willa Estes of Little Rock. He and his wife, Janet, have two sons.

British actor Paul Alexander will present "Miracles and Parables" at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 19, in Mississippi College's Spell Auditorium of Provine Chapel. He also will present "Shakespeare: Dreams of Power and Passion" at 7 p.m. Oct. 18, in the school's Hall of Fame Room of the B.C. Rogers Student Center. The event is sponsored by the MC Department of Religion and Philosophy.

Charles Sullivan, executive director of the Indiana Baptist Convention, will be the evangelist for Crusade '93, hosted by



Sullivan

Goodyear Church, Picayune, Oct. 24-28. Sullivan will preach Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m., and Tues. and Thurs., 11 a.m. Ken Nuss of Cantonment, Fla., will lead the music.

Donald P. Dunn, long-time member of First Church, Magnolia, died Sept. 11. He served the church as music director for 33 years and as a deacon for 55 years. He is survived by his wife Lucille; and two daughters, Patsy L. Smith of Houston, Texas, and Kitty D. Brogan, wife of Richard Brogan, a consultant in the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Ronnie Keyes, right, was recently ordained as a deacon by Calhoun Church, Hot Coffee. Ken Stringer, director of missions for Jeff Davis/Covington Association, delivered the charge. Jeff Thomas, left, is pastor.



Mary Claire Norwood was honored Sept. 19 for her 30 years of service as the organist at First Church, Cleveland. She received red roses and a plaque from Darryl Prater, music minister.

Midway notes 50th year

Midway Church, Jackson, will celebrate its 50th anniversary Oct. 17 with day-long activities. Morning worship will be held at 10:30 with William F. "Pete" Evans bringing the message. Other activities include lunch and a 1:30 p.m. service.

All former members and staff are invited to attend. For more information, call (601) 922-3064. David Wilkerson is pastor.

Latest RTVC/ABC special profiles Alaska missions

FORT WORTH (BP) — "Northern Lights," the latest network special produced by the Radio and Television Commission, began airing on ABC-TV Oct. 10.

In Mississippi, ABC-TV's Biloxi affiliate carried the show Oct. 10. Jackson and Meridian stations are still considering the program, while the Greenville/Greenwood and Columbus stations have declined to air the special. "Northern Lights" premiered Sept. 30 at Mississippi College.

The one-hour documentary focuses on the faith and commitment of people living in the harsh, beautiful land of Alaska's Arctic Circle.

It is produced and directed by

Emmy winner **Bernie Hargis,** and narrated by motion picture star **Peter Graves.** The special combines videography with testimonies from faith pioneers challenged by the frontier.

The Radio and Television Commission produced "Northern Lights" as part of a series of programs on ABC developed by members of the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission, a coalition of five faith groups — the National Council of Churches, the United States Catholic Conference, the New York Board of Rabbis, and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, as well as Southern Baptists. Other programs in the series are scheduled on ABC Dec. 12, 1993, and Jan. 23, 1994.

Uniform Church Letter to be revised, renamed

NASHVILLE (BP) — Changes in the Southern Baptist Uniform Church Letter, to be effective in 1994, have been made to make the annual report easier to complete, result in more accurate statistics at the national level, and be of greater benefit locally, according to Tom Carringer, denominational statistics specialist at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

In addition to providing a statistical report to the association, state convention, and Southern Baptist Convention, Carringer said the UCL will be a more effective tool for churches to measure their health, growth, and progress. To better describe the dual purposes, he said the name

will change to "The Annual Church Profile."

Among changes, the new format will reverse the order of enrollment figures, requesting the total first, followed by age-group breakdowns. The way churches report statistics on mission-type churches they sponsor also is different. Beginning with 1994, churches and mission-type churches will be reported separately and then totaled together.

Carringer said more churches and associations are using computer software to complete church letters. He noted the software's error-checking capabilities, will lower the cost and increase accuracy.

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**Our oldest
readers
respond...**

Our Oldest Reader:

Fleet Burkett is 103 years old. A member of First Church, Columbia, he is also the oldest living alumnus of the University of Southern Mississippi. Three cheers!

I became 100 years old on July 12, 1993. I have been reading **The Baptist Record** for many, many years and love it. Until three years ago, I lived in Calhoun County all my life. Thank you so much for publishing a good paper.
Ora Lee Barton
Memphis

I am a 92-year-old woman living alone. I still go to church and teach my adult ladies' Sunday School class. I live in Paden, and

am a longtime reader of your paper.

Artie Timbes

I am writing this letter for my grandmother, **Ola Hales Shivers**. She is 99 1/2 years old. She will be 100 on March 14. Each Thursday when she gets her mail, your paper is the first mail she opens. Her eyesight is real bad but she gets out her magnifying reading light and reads it front to back. She is a member of McDowell Road Church, Jackson.

Ginger McCaffrey
Jackson

Esther Eakin was 98 on Oct. 11. She is a member of Pattison Baptist Church, Pattison. She is currently a resident of the Claiborne County Nursing Home, Port Gibson.

I am 97 years old. I joined Antioch Church, Lawrence County, when I was 18 years old, and have been there ever since. I have been reading **The Baptist Record** so long that I can't remember how long.

Walter McGuffee
Monticello

I am 85 years old, and a resident of Kemper County Nursing

Can you top this?

Home. I am a member of Poplar Springs Church, Meridian, and receive the paper every week. **The Baptist Record** has been in my home since I was a small child. Imagine my surprise when I discovered my grandfather was the author of a series of **Baptist Record** articles about preaching in Mississippi in the 1870s!

Helen Phillips
DeKalb

My mother, **Bettie Lee Bryant**, has the honor of being the oldest member of First Church, Booneville. She will be 100 Oct. 26. She has been a faithful reader of **The Baptist Record** for more than half her life, not only reading it but sharing it with friends and employees in the Longwood Manor Nursing Home.

Willie Frances Rutherford
Baldwyn

Eva Leggett will be 96 in November. She lives in Richland and is a member of First Church, Jackson.

I am 88 years young, and look forward to my paper every week. I have a sister-in-law, **Eva Mae Evans**, who is 93. She reads the **Record** every week. She is a

member of First, Columbia.

Nell E. Smith
Moss Point

I was born March 27, 1901. I enjoy the paper and read it every week. I am a member of Hillcrest Church, Jackson.

Dera Ainsworth

Yes, I am an old reader of **The Baptist Record**. I enjoy every issue and look forward to getting it. I will be 83 next February.

Mozell Burton
Greenville

I will be 93 next month. Although I have been bedridden for nearly four years, I look forward each week to having **The Baptist Record** placed in my hand. I "wallow it" around to read it, front to back.

Donna Maize Tucker
Hattiesburg

I am 96 years old and have read my **Baptist Record** regularly for more than 50 years.

John T. Lewis
Eupora

I have been reading **The Baptist Record** for many years. I'm not sure when I began. I enjoy

each copy. I was 89 last February.

Estelle Hubbard
Enid

I am 87 years old and a member of Moorhead Church. I enjoy **The Baptist Record** so much, I use it in Sunday School.

Mrs. A.L. Thompson
Moorhead

My 90-year-old mother-in-law, **Marie Fairchild**, has been reading **The Baptist Record** since her home church, Moselle Memorial, began subscribing to it. She still enjoys having the daily paper, Bible, and **Baptist Record** read to her regularly. She has truly lived up to the standards of the virtuous woman in Proverbs.

Molly Fairchild
Moselle

I was 90 in May. I read the paper every week and always enjoy the Sunday School lessons. I am a member of Oak Grove Church, Prentiss, and have been a member of that same church for 72 years.

Lucille Mikell
Prentiss

(More next week)

Alliance of Baptists assesses future

WASHINGTON (ABP) — The Alliance of Baptists will not merge with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship but will continue to play a constructive role in Baptist life for years to come, according to its chief executive.

Stan Hastey, Alliance executive director, told his board of directors that dialogue between the two groups resulted in a mutual agreement to work side by side with one another, rather than join as one.

Since the formation of the Fellowship in 1990, participation in the Alliance has dropped off and many people had anticipated a merger of the two moderate Baptist groups. But discussions between the two organizations instead affirmed their continued separate existence.

In addition to discussing the future of the Alliance, the board in its semi-annual meeting Sept. 30-Oct. 2 empowered a special task force to begin the process of developing a statement on homosexuality. The board also adopted a \$246,173 budget for 1994 and heard various reports during the meeting at First Baptist Church in

Washington, D.C.

The board empowered its special task force on human sexuality "to develop a working statement on human sexuality, specifically in regards to issues of homosexuality, and a proposed process for the use of the statement for presentation to the board at the annual meeting" in March. The voice vote was overwhelming but not unanimous.

The board grappled with what to call the document and finally settled on "working statement." This term was selected to communicate that the document presented in March would not yet be an official Alliance position and that members would have opportunity for input before it could become one.

Bill Johnson of Ardmore, Okla., spoke against drafting a working statement. He asked the board, "Who are we to judge?" It is

wrong for the board to take a vote on affirming homosexuality because it places the directors in the role of God who rightfully judges, he said.

"To not vote is a vote itself," countered Larry Crawford of Burlington, N.C. "Not taking a stand is a stand.... It's time to speak out."

Hastey said he had hoped when the task force was initiated that the Alliance would not deal with a statement on homosexuality. But now, he said, he has overcome "my personal fear" about considering a statement on the issue.

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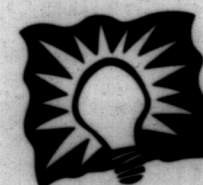
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YOUR BRIDGE TO THE WORLD

Uniform God's covenant is forever



By Michael O'Brien
Genesis 17

The covenant God made with Abram is a covenant forever and includes those who by faith will enter into a relationship with his son, Jesus Christ. God holds out to all of us an opportunity to have our sins forgiven and to enjoy eternal fellowship with him through our commitment to our Lord.

God reaffirms his covenant (vv. 1-2). "When Abram was 91 years old, the Lord appeared to him..." (v. 1a, NIV). Back in Chapter 12, God had commanded Abram to leave his home and strike out for parts unknown. Depending upon his obedience, God made a covenant with him. Twenty-four years had passed and God comes again to visit Abram. Nothing has changed in regard to what God expects from him; "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless" (v. 1b, NIV). We experience the imputed righteousness of God when we in faith receive him. God expects us to remain righteous, not in and of ourselves, but because of Who now lives in us. God expected Abram to be faithful, even if he did not see the results of the covenant at that point in his life.

"I will confirm my covenant..." (v. 2a, NIV). In verse 1, God says, "I am." In verse 2, he says, "I will." God is God and he will do what he says he will do — every time! Abram had been waiting 24 years, but God knew all along what was going on and what he was going to do. God not only reaffirms his covenant with Abram, he also extends it as we will see in some later verses.

God changes Abram's name (vv. 3-6). The first part of the third verse states, "Abram fell face down..." When we encounter God there is but one position that will suffice, the position of humility. God tells Abram that his covenant was being enlarged, increased: "You will be the father of many nations." This entailed a name change. The name Abram means "exalted father." Surely this was true of Abram for God had exalted him before the people. Now he is to be known as Abraham. The name Abraham means "father of many." In effect, God was saying, "Your descendants will be many, but you knew that. Now they will include nations and kings." God was blessing Abraham not because Abraham was so good, but because God is so good.

We saw in a previous lesson how Abram had run ahead of the Lord and had a child by Hagar, Sarai's handmaid. He was trying to help out God. What God seeks from us is not our help; he wants our obedience.

God extends his covenant (vv. 7-8). We see how God was willing to extend his covenant to include Abraham's descendants. Is he willing also to extend the covenant entered into by his followers today? What about our descendants? God promised them a land (Canaan) for their everlasting possession. God would like to extend his covenant with you to include your descendants. Seeing what God was willing to do for Abraham should encourage us to share our faith with unsaved family members and friends in order to allow God to extend the covenant through us. God promised them a land as an eternal possession, the land of Canaan. God's promise to us is so much greater, for our eternal home is with him in heaven.

God commands obedience (vv. 9-14). The command of circumcision seems a little strange to us today; perhaps even a little shocking. This "sign of the covenant" would be an act of obedience and an act of trust on the part of God's people. Certainly this would be a visible sign of complete trust and obedience on the part of Abraham.

What has God asked of us today? Be circumcised? Walk on hot coals? God has not asked us to do anything that would hurt us or cause us bodily harm. God has asked us to be his witnesses. God wants us to demonstrate to a lost world that we are living "set apart" lives because he has taken steps to set us apart unto him.

O'Brien is pastor, First Church, Lexington.

Bible Book Love and serve God only



By Jewel P. Merritt
Deuteronomy 6

In response to an assignment on good citizenship, one of my second graders wrote the following: "When you see a sign that says 'Danger,' don't go that way." Moses reminded the Israelites of God's laws and the grave danger if the people proved to be disobedient.

The command to love God only (vv. 4-9). Verse 4 — "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord" — is the key thought in the Jewish faith. It sums up everything they believe and practice about the Lord. It is the first verse learned by Jewish children. Jesus said that the commandment, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might" was the first and greatest commandment (Matt. 22:37-38). Moses said this truth and those that followed were of such preeminence that they should be kept in people's hearts. Words which were that important must be impressed on the hearts of their children also. This was to be done by example (implied) and by talking about them. Parents and teachers are aware that a teachable moment might come at any time — "when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (v. 7). Children are quick to see through the face we wear in public. We may talk about the Lord. But the testimony which speaks loudest to our children and those around us is a life spent loving those around us and sharing God's love in words and deeds.

Warning against disobedience (vv. 12-15). When the Lord brought the Israelites into Canaan, the people would be moving into fortified cities and furnished homes complete with wells, gardens, and vineyards. After 40 years of desert wandering, this prosperity could be the gravest danger this generation had faced. Moses warned the people not to forget that the Lord was responsible for their freedom and prosperity. He was to be feared and held in awe. He was to be served faithfully. Moses also admonished the people not to worship the gods of the Canaanites. Their pagan worship appealed to the basest human nature. The Israelites were warned that the Lord God was a jealous God. God's jealousy is not like ours. God's jealousy wants the best for his people whom he created, bought, and redeemed. He stands alone as the one true God. Disregarding these directives about worshipping other gods would bring the Lord's anger against his sinful people.

A warning against tempting God (v. 16). You may want to reread Exodus 17:1-7 to refresh your memory about this incident. The people complained because they had no water to drink. They forgot all the miracles the Lord had performed on their behalf. They, like too many of us, wanted instant gratification. God considered their murmurings to be sinful.

Instruction for the children (vv. 20-24). My husband grew up in the Macedonia community in Forrest County. Our sons, and now our grandchildren, have always enjoyed the stories he tells of brothers, sisters, cousins, dogs, and "critters."

Moses said the time would come when the youths would ask for an explanation regarding the laws given by God. A history lesson telling of God's faithfulness and the miracles he performed on behalf of the Israelites was to follow. The hero of the history lesson would be the Lord God.

There comes a time in our lives when we find, sometimes to our surprise, that we have become the "older generation." Questions may come to our minds about locations of the old home place, relatives who served our country during wartime, etc. We realize there is no one left to answer our questions. This must never happen to our children regarding our faith in the Lord and why he is precious to us. We should heed Peter's words: "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Pet. 3:15, NIV).

Merritt is a member of First Church, Jackson.

Life and Work The great invitation



By Mark A. Rathel
Isaiah 55

All people have the same basic needs. Biological needs, such as food, are considered basic. Beyond survival needs, people require safety, stability, protection, and freedom. As social beings, we need to give and receive love. In addition, people have a need for a feeling of self-worth, an attitude aided by a sense of mastery or adequacy. Finally, people need a purpose and meaning in life, a purpose that exists outside themselves.

The most important human need, however, is a personal relationship with God. Yet, people invert priorities. By focusing on secondary or tertiary needs, some people neglect the priority spiritual need. According to Isaiah 55, when an individual focuses on the primary need, God abundantly provides for the secondary and tertiary needs. A spiritual focus results in an abundant, joyful life!

An invitation addressed to you (vv. 1-2). Through the prophet Isaiah, God extended a universal invitation. In our nation of abundant waters, we do not appreciate the use of water as a symbol of life. Like a water-vendor on the streets of Jerusalem, God addressed the invitation to the thirsty. Thirst is used frequently in the Bible as an analogy for a deep desire for God (Ps. 42:1-2; Matt. 6).

Our thirst can be satisfied at no cost to us. Actually, a high cost is paid. The servant, prophesied in Isaiah 53, bore the high cost of sin (53:6).

Verse 2 contains two questions which emphasize the futility of seeking the abundant life through materialism. By inverting priorities, people expend precious energies and resources in pursuit of that which does not satisfy. Accepting God's invitation results in a delightful abundance — that is life at its best.

R.S.V.P. (vv. 6-7). God promises compassion and abundant pardon to those who respond to his invitation. Two actions are necessary to respond to God's invitation of salvation. First, individuals must seek the Lord by calling upon him (v. 6). "Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved" (Rom. 10:13). Second, individuals must return to the Lord (v. 7). "Return" is the Hebrew word for repent. Repentance means a change of direction. Repentance is the acknowledgement of personal wrong-doing against God, the forsaking or turning from sin, and a turning to God with a commitment of obedience.

A response to God's invitation is urgent. People must not presume on God by waiting for a convenient time to respond. God is not always equally accessible. Now is the time to respond (2 Cor. 6:2-3).

God's plans are lofty (vv. 8-9). These words concerning God's grandeur are not general, rather they specifically refer to God's gift of salvation. We categorize sins. We thereby identify the worst offenders and consider them beyond pardon. God's thoughts and our thoughts, however, are poles apart. Even the most wicked and unrighteous can accept God's invitation through repentance.

God's word guarantees the invitation (vv. 10-11). Again these words refer to God's promise of salvation. As the rain succeeds in producing fruit, so God's Word succeeds in accomplishing its purpose. God's promise of salvation can be relied upon because God himself is the guarantor.

Response to the invitation produces joy (v. 12). Forgiveness of sin brings joy and peace. Each day Christians should go forth in a celebrative mood. Isaiah pictured the created order praising God. The earth can not keep quiet. Christians should not keep quiet about the blessing of salvation.

Rathel is pastor, Bay Vista Church, Biloxi.



capsules

SOUTHERN BAPTIST AGAIN OBSERVES PLO/ISRAEL AGREEMENT: WASHINGTON (BP) — For the second time in 15 years, a Southern Baptist in the White House watched as representatives of Israel and a bitter enemy signed a peace agreement in the capitol city. President Bill Clinton, flanked by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat, observed the signing of a preliminary agreement for Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. The Sept. 13 signing was witnessed by about 3,000 guests, including former Presidents Jimmy Carter and George Bush, on the White House's south lawn. The signing by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO Executive Council member Mahmud Abbas took place at the same desk used in 1979 when Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat signed a peace treaty between the two countries. Carter, like Clinton a member of a Southern Baptist church, joined the two leaders in a now-famous handshake after the signing. This time after the signing of the agreement, Clinton spread his arms behind Rabin and Arafat as they joined in a momentous handshake.

NFL PLAYER WHITE AMASSES MORE SACKS THAN GAMES: GREEN BAY, Wis. (EP) — Recently signed to the Green Bay Packers, Reggie White has made a career of blind-siding quarterbacks, and is the only NFL player to have amassed more sacks than games played. But White, who is also a Baptist minister, says that in the pulpit he tackles hard subjects as well. "I preach about things others wouldn't dare preach about," he says. "I don't mind putting myself in the middle of racial issues. I'll speak out and take risks even if it causes uncomfortableness." Defensive line coach Greg Blache told the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* that he sees no contradiction between White's faith and his work. "It's a fallacy that Christians need to be meek and mild," Blache said. "Christianity is what you feel in your heart and Reggie can love people and still throw them on the ground and bounce them around a little bit."

CENTRIFUGE CAMPERS GIVE \$201,000 TO MISSIONS: NASHVILLE (BP) — The 36,135 youths and leaders who attended 92 weeks of Centrifuge camps held during the summer of 1993 contributed an average of six dollars each to support four home missions projects. Campers gave a total of \$201,919.51, an increase of more than \$20,000 from the 1992 offering of \$180,663.27. The number attending Centrifuge camps also increased by 810 from the 35,325 total for 1992. From the 1993 missions offering, \$70,000 is earmarked for Mississippi River ministry; \$70,000 for disaster relief; \$40,000 for volunteer assistance; and \$20,000 for Home Mission Board's national creative arts team. Since 1984, Centrifuge campers have given a total of \$1,167,476.02 to home and foreign missions projects. A total of 805 campers made professions of faith and 537 committed themselves to full-time Christian service. Another 2,465 rededicated their lives to the Lord and 337 registered other decisions. Centrifuge is sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division.

OKLAHOMA BAPTIST STAFFER RESIGNS AFTER AUDIT: OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — The Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma's board of directors, in a formal statement, has disclosed the resignation of Sam Garner, executive director of the convention's Family Care Ministries Department, for "improper expenditures of BGCOC funds which violated the convention's policy against personal use of convention funds." The improper expenditures were found in an audit mutually agreed upon by the convention officers and staff and Garner. The board of directors did not disclose the amount of funds involved, but their statement noted, "In all instances, where reimbursement was recommended by the auditor, payment was made by Garner. All funds reviewed by the audit have been accounted for." The audit indicated no other Oklahoma Baptist convention employee was involved in the handling of the funds, the directors' statement noted. The directors said they handled the matter in an executive session Sept. 14 and determined "no further action was necessary."

CRIMES REPORTED DECLINED 3% FROM 1991: WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Federal Bureau of Investigation announced Oct. 3 that crimes reported to law enforcement agencies declined 3% in 1992 compared to 1991. FBI Director Louis J. Freeh said, "Any reduction in reported crime is welcome but the amount of violent crime and other grave offenses nationwide remains intolerable. Crime is shockingly high in a country where the rule of law should prevail. Permanent and major crime reductions must be achieved as swiftly as possible." Freeh said violent crimes increased 1% last year. Murder and robbery decreased but forcible rape increased 2% and aggravated assault 3%. All major property crimes dropped. Despite the overall 3% decline, the amount of crime was 19% higher than in 1983. An estimated 14.4 million offenses were reported to law enforcement agencies across the nation in 1992, an average of 5,660 crimes for every 100,000 inhabitants.

Longtime Yazoo City deacon credits hard work, God's plan, for long life

By Shannon T. Simpson

If you ask Jack Manning for the secret to his longevity, he will likely answer, "The Lord is keeping me here."

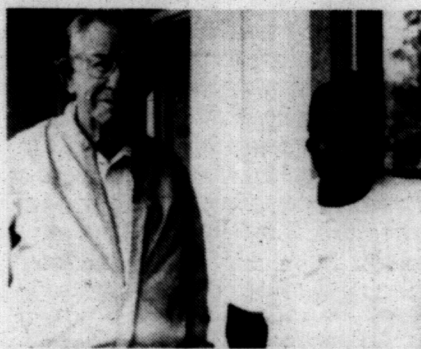
At age 90, "Mr. Jack" has lots of reasons to stay around, and lots to do as manager of property maintenance at First Church, Yazoo City. He's been working there for 25 years.

Manning retired from Mississippi Chemical Corporation in 1968, and thought he "was going to be fishing." But Lacy Hodges, then-chairman of deacons at First Church, had other plans.

"He came and asked me if I would look after the property," Manning recalls. "I said no — I wanted to fish. But they kept on and I finally said yes. They told me to fix what I could fix; and if I couldn't, to find somebody that could, and then go fishing."

His duties include everything from supervision of the two full-time and one part-time maintenance staffers ("They are jewels"), to repair of heating and cooling systems, to cutting the grass. He also cuts the grass at home. He's up at 5 every morning, then at the church building around 7. He has served the church as Sunday School teacher, still serves as a deacon, and was Boy Scout troop leader for many years.

One of his most important duties is greeting the children who attend the First Church day care. "We have to shake hands and have a conversation every morning as they come in," he said proudly. He has seen three generations of children come through that day care. "It's a big joy to watch them grow up, then bring



Deacon Jack Manning and Fannie Jones have worked together for almost 25 years. Jones was recently honored for her years of service to the church. Manning said of her, "If ever there was a friend, that gal is it, right there."



Kayley Rowland took time away from her playmates at First Church, Yazoo City to see what Mr. Jack was doing.

their children back here.

"No matter how big or little they are, I shake hands with them," Manning said. "Kids remember if you don't talk to them — they remember like elephants. It's important to make them feel good."

Four-year-old Kate Raddin feels especially important around Mr. Jack. She helps him lock up the building after services and church functions. Her daddy, Pastor David Raddin, said, "It is the opportunity of a lifetime to know someone like Mr. Jack. He is an example in outreach. He has a weekly homebound visitation ministry on top of everything else he does."

"This church will fall down when the Lord takes Daddy home," said Manning's only daughter, Mary Thacker. She and husband Henry, along with their teenage daughter Claire, moved in with Manning last year after the death of his wife. That passage came only one week shy of their 65th wedding anniversary.

Thacker says her father's biggest testimony is of tithing: "Mama wanted him to tithe, but he said he couldn't afford it, he had too many bills to pay. Well, they started to tithe and then he was able to buy Mama a new car."

"I learned from that you have to tithe off the top," Manning said. "The Lord has been so faithful to me and my family. We went through the Depression and never missed a lick. We always had some-

thing. I often think about how many peas and fat meat we fed on, but the Lord was good to us.

"That's one thing that can exasperate me — to see people on welfare when they could be working."

Manning said hard work has helped him live a long life. Thacker said it's only been a few years since the church finally talked him into staying off the church's sloped roof.

But for all his hard work, Manning has a great sense of humor. He told a story on himself when prompted by his daughter. One windy, rainy Sunday morning last fall, he was trying to sweep up leaves in the parking lot before services. He bent over to pick up a piece of trash and went head first into the garbage can. His co-worker Larry had to "come and fish me out."

The grandfather of eight and great-grandfather of 12 says he wants to live long enough to see little Kate Raddin grow up and get married.

"There's a purpose in everyone's life. We may not fulfill it, but we still have a purpose. Maybe God's keeping me here 'til I catch a 4-pound bream!"

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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JMA CT FZ YN WNA TNHRCEZ, WZCAPZH ICOO
RNMH TKAPZH IPCXP CB CW PZKEZW TNHRCEZ
FNMH AHZBQKBBZB.

UKHG ZOZEZW: AIZWAF-BCS

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Proverbs One: Seven.

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